



# Agricultural Knowledge Initiative

Photographs by CHRISTOPHER WURST

The United States and India are putting money, manpower, expertise and technology to work over the next three years to bring about a second Green Revolution that would increase and diversify Indian agricultural production.

Called the United States-India Agricultural Knowledge Initiative, it's a \$100 million commitment to link the two countries' universities, technical institutions and businesses in practical ways to support agricultural education, joint research and capacity building projects. The Initiative was an important part of the Joint Statement announced by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on March 2. "Our first Green Revolution (in the 1960s) benefited in substantial measures from assistance provided by the United States," said Prime Minister Singh. "We are hopeful that the Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture will be the harbinger of a second Green Revolution in our country." The initiative can also be expected to boost bi-

lateral trade in farm products.

Two-thirds of Indians earn their living from agriculture, and 22 percent of the nation's GDP comes from farming. The Knowledge Initiative will adapt modern techniques and technologies to develop more opportunities for farmers to develop, grow and market their goods.



President Bush observed some of these ideas in action when he visited Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University in Hyderabad on March 3. A farmer named Lakshmi explained the challenges of manual cultivation as the President tried his hand at some fieldwork while M. Koteswara Rao of the Chennai Consulate ob-

served (above left). President Bush spoke to farmers who are using innovative methods of measuring soil moisture, seed diversification, pest and weed management. At a dairy production display the President patted a buffalo named Murra as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S.R. Reddy looked on (above right) and cuddled 4-year-old Venkatamma, the daughter of a local women's self-help group participant (left). As an example of the cooperation that will take place under the Agricultural Knowledge Initiative, Ranga University is already working with Cornell University in New York state, with funding from USAID, to encourage farmers to try these different techniques.

—L.K.L.